

1 [Urging California Voters to pass the Mental Health Services Act]

2 **Resolution urging the voters of the State of California to pass the Mental Health**
3 **Services Act.**
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5 WHEREAS, Mental illnesses are extremely common, affecting almost every family in
6 San Francisco and people from every age group and background; and

7 WHEREAS, Failure to provide timely treatment can destroy individuals and families;
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9 WHEREAS, Untreated mental illness is the leading cause of disability and suicide and
10 imposes high costs on state and local governments; and

11 WHEREAS, An estimated 8,500 to 15,000 people in san Francisco are homeless or on
12 the edge of homelessness and approximately 30% of the homeless population has a
13 disabling mental illness; and

14 WHEREAS, San Francisco with the highest rate of homelessness in the United States,
15 is also likely the United States city with the highest ratio of individuals who are homeless and
16 suffering from disabling mental illness; and

17 WHEREAS, In a cost cutting move thirty years ago, California drastically cut back its
18 services in state hospitals for people with severe mental illness; and,

19 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco believe
20 that California residents with mental illness deserve better service and support; and

21 WHEREAS, With effective treatment and support, recovery from mental illness is
22 feasible for most individuals; and
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1 WHEREAS, By expanding programs that have demonstrated their effectiveness
2 California can save lives and money; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
4 urges the voters of the State of California to pass the Mental Health Services Act, and enable
5 California to lead the country in providing mental health services to persons currently disabled
6 by mental illness, to persons showing signs of mental illness, and to families and caregivers
7 of those affected.

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